



**SAN FRANCISCO COUNCIL OF DISTRICT
MERCHANTS ASSOCIATIONS
SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT**



SFPD SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY FORUM

MINUTES 11.06.20

HENRY KARNILOWICZ, CO-CHAIR, 1019 HOWARD ST. SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103 415.420.8113 HENRY.KARNILOWICZ@GMAIL.COM

Date: Friday, November 6, 2020
Time: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Location: Zoom online, San Francisco

MINUTES

Present: Henry Karnilowicz (Co-Chair), Deputy Chief David Lazar, DA Chief of Staff David Campos, Officer Martin Ferreira, Vas Kiniris, Bill Barnickel, Cynthia Silverstein, Janet Tarlov, Alex Mullaney, Susie McKinnon, Al Casciato, Awadalla Awadalla, Masood Samereie, Betty Louie, Grace Horikiri, Randall Scott

Meeting commenced at 12:05 pm.

Grace Horikiri hosted the meeting. Thank you Grace.

Cynthia Silverstein made a motion to approve the minutes and Al Casciato seconded and approval was unanimous.

First of all I wish to thank the District Attorney's Office Chief of Staff David Campos for joining in the meeting. I mentioned that it was David Campos who wrote the Legacy Business ordinance for which small business is grateful.

DC Lazar congratulated David Campos on his new position as the Chief of Staff at the District Attorney's Office. He said that the purpose of the advisory forum is to advise the department on what should be done to make things better and the small business community safer. He said that Officer Martin Ferreira who is in his Bureau of Investigation will be talking about graffiti. He said that he meets with the DA's office once a month to discuss Public Safety. He has been watching the debates and what has been happening around the country with first amendment rights demonstrations and noticed businesses being boarded up but fortunately things has gone fairly smoothly in San Francisco.

There have been persistent burglaries and robberies in the East Bay with groups of individuals in the evenings. Crime stats show that major crimes are down but burglaries are up over 40% at 5,800 now. The department has identified 35 of the most prolific burglars and are working on prevention and are using cameras and lighting etc. and the services of SF Safe. Auto theft and arson (mostly small fires) have increased. Homicides are up by 10 this year with a total of 43 to date. Some are gang-related while others are the result of disputes.

Bill Barnickel asked about Proposal E failing (regarding minimum staffing), and what impact will that have on the Police Department. DC Lazar replied that under the city charter, that department should have a staff of 1,971 but have come up short. They are still dealing with burglaries and robberies but they are at the lowest point in patrols in 10 years and in terms of the budget there will be only one class next year.

Masood Samereie said that with the homeless being moved out of hotels they are going back on the street so does SFPD have any plans to addresses this. DC Lazar replied that they are taking a back seat but providing public safety. Masood thanked SFPD for creating the Community Liaison Unit and DC Lazar said that it is a community engagement division for prejudice based incidents, hate crimes and elder abuse. An officer is assigned to engage with the victims.

Recently there was a home invasion robbery in the Sunset where an officer from the unit was dispatched to help the victims, one of whom was a student from Lowell High School. As part of their assistance she was offered a job that the City provides through their resources.

Susie McKinnon asked about the size and scope of the Community Liaison Unit and DC Lazar said there are 5 very diverse officers.

Betty Louie said that she met a couple of these officers and thanked DC Lazar.

Awadalla Awadalla has been talking with many of the merchants and wanted to know what to do in the event of rioting and looting because of the elections and DC Lazar said he did not think things would get out of hand.

Janet Tarlov experienced an incident at her store: five people tried to come in to steal brazenly and there was a violent attack resulting in an employee getting hurt. She was very grateful that the Captain and Supervisor Mandelman came by afterwards. Janet asked about a training session with SF Safe and the Captain confirmed there is one in the Castro that she could attend. DC Lazar said she should contact Supervisor Mandelman for a training. He also said these types of incident are happening frequently at Walgreens stores, with a couple of them now closing.

Randall Scott said that with the drop in staffing levels he wanted to know about using Patrol Specials. DC Lazar said he is concerned about bringing in another entity and that 10B Programs would be a better option.

Officer Martin Ferreira is the Graffiti Abatement Officer, a position he has held for the past 9 years. He has seen some forward thinking about this issue. He has authored arrest warrants and confirms that SFPD does take this matter seriously. He also sits on the advisory body.

Awadalla Awadalla said that with the Shared Spaces there is frequent tagging. Officer Ferreira said that the tagging should be painted over as soon as possible as otherwise the tagging grows. Taggers communicate with each other and if the graffiti is removed quickly they don't usually return. With tagging happening at night time there should be ample lighting and surveillance cameras which is how he has identified taggers. He also gave his email and cell number to contact him.

Officer Martin Ferreira: Martin.Ferreira@sfgov.org | 415.850.6951

DC Lazar said Officer Ferreira is really excellent about arresting of tagging suspects.

Al Casciato thanked Officer Ferreira for making himself available and said he is a wonderful resource.

Susie McKinnon said she is with the small business and arts community and was wondering about murals. Officer Ferreira said muralists should be vetted otherwise sometimes the muralist may be targeted and thus he said to stay away from letters but use portraits and landscapes. Also, small business owners should be aware that if the mural gets defaced or targeted, the mural may be copyrighted and thus the small business owner needs to go into the deal with the muralist with eyes wide open. The mural can be clear coated and maybe they should enter into an agreement for removing the mural.

Cynthia Silverstein said that there is a beautiful mural in Hayes Valley by Grime, known for his tattooing and graffiti art, and his work does not get defaced. Officer Ferreira said there is a graffiti artist using the tag Finch who had his Honey Bears defaced. He said that most people don't understand the graffiti community.

David Campos said he was on the Board of Supervisors and then an Administrator in Santa Clara and now the Chief of Staff at the DA's Office. He said that he authored the Legacy Business ordinance, Proposition J and helped create the Special Use District in the Mission. Small business will be his priority. The DA's office does look in to how small businesses get impacted by burglaries and they take it very seriously and have worked on 80% of the cases.

Susie McKinnon wanted to know about open air drug dealing. David said that the DA's Office is prosecuting but that is not working well so they are putting together a pilot program aimed at being more proactive. The City Attorney has injunctions in place but this has not alleviated the situation and criminalizing and putting people in jail does not help as they get others to do the dealing.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Minutes presented by Co-Chair Henry Karnilowicz

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